for our country. I am pleased to have negotiated with so many people—Senator HUTCHISON, Senator KYL on that side, Senator WARNER and others—that we were able to reach agreements so we will have a way forward dealing with only a couple controversial issues that will remain and then we will have final passage.

I know the Senator from Florida wishes to speak.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN.) The Senator from Florida.

SPACE PROGRAM

Mr. LEMIEUX. Mr. President, I am here to speak on this FAA bill and on an amendment that I filed on this bill concerning the space program.

For decades, the space shuttle has been a symbol for American innovation and ingenuity and the pioneering spirit that has made our Nation the most technologically advanced country in the world.

Today, our space program, however, stands at a crossroads, between one project and the next. For years, we have had soaring aspirations about space without funding. Now we have a plan that includes the money but lacks the vision.

In our Nation's space program, we cannot have money without ambition. The result will be directionless spending. As sure as winter follows fall, that directionless spending will lead to cuts in spending and eventually, I believe, the demise of our space program.

In 2004, the Constellation Program was announced as a followup to the space shuttle program. That vision was endorsed by Congress in 2005 and in 2008. In both years, we directed NASA to focus its efforts on returning to the Moon by 2020 and someday sending Americans to Mars and worlds beyond.

In fact, I have here the public law that was passed just about a year and a half ago, October 15 of 2008. It is Public Law 110–422. If I may read from it, it says:

The Congress finds, on this, the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the following:

It goes on to say that one of the points they find is:

Developing United States human space flight capabilities to allow independent American access to the International Space Station, and to explore beyond low Earth orbit, is a strategically important national imperative, and all prudent steps should thus be taken to bring the Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle and Aries I Crew Launch Vehicle to full operational capability as soon as possible and to ensure the effective development of a United States heavy lift launch capability as soon as possible and to ensure the effective development of a United States heavy lift launch capability for missions beyond low Earth orbit.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have that portion of the public law printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds, on this, the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration following:

(1) NASA is and should remain a multimission agency with a balanced and robust set of core missions in science, aeronautics, and human space flight and exploration.

(2) Investment in NASA's programs will promote innovation through research and development, and will improve the competitiveness of the United States.

(3) Investment in NASA's programs, like investments in other Federal science and technology activities, is an investment in our future.

(4) Properly structured, NASA's activities can contribute to an improved quality of life, economic vitality, United States leadership in peaceful cooperation with other nations on challenging undertakings in science and technology, national security, and the advancement of knowledge.

(5) NASA should assume a leadership role in a cooperative international Earth observations and research effort to address key research issues associated with climate change and its impacts on the Earth system.

(6) NASA should undertake a program of aeronautical research, development, and where appropriate demonstration activities with the overarching goals of—

(A) ensuring that the Nation's future air transportation system can handle up to 3 times the current travel demand and incorporate new vehicle types with no degradation in safety or adverse environmental impact on local communities;

(B) protecting the environment;

(C) promoting the security of the Nation; and

(D) retaining the leadership of the United States in global aviation.

(7) Human and robotic exploration of the solar system will be a significant long-term undertaking of humanity in the 21st century and beyond, and it is in the national interest that the United States should assume a leadership role in a cooperative international exploration initiative.

(8) Developing United States human space flight capabilities to allow independent American access to the International Space Station, and to explore beyond low Earth orbit, is a strategically important national imperative, and all prudent steps should thus be taken to bring the Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle and Ares I Crew Launch Vehicle to full operational capability as soon as possible and to ensure the effective development of a United States heavy lift launch capability for missions beyond low Earth orbit.

(9) NASA's scientific research activities have contributed much to the advancement of knowledge, provided societal benefits, and helped train the next generation of scientists and engineers, and those activities should continue to be an important priority.

(10) NASA should make a sustained commitment to a robust long-term technology development activity. Such investments represent the critically important ''seed corn'' on which NASA's ability to carry out challenging and productive missions in the future will depend.

(11) NASA, through its pursuit of challenging and relevant activities, can provide an important stimulus to the next generation to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

(12) Commercial activities have substantially contributed to the strength of both the United States space program and the national economy, and the development of a healthy and robust United States commercial space sector should continue to be encouraged.

(13) It is in the national interest for the United States to have an export control policy that protects the national security while also enabling the United States aerospace industry to compete effectively in the global market place and the United States to undertake cooperative programs in science and human space flight in an effective and efficient manner.

Mr. LEMIEUX. That was a year and a half ago. This is now. The President's 2011 budget cancels this program, the Constellation Program, and what it does, in effect, is put our efforts for space exploration in severe jeopardy, potentially risking the jobs of more than 7,000 rocket scientists in Florida as well as jobs throughout this country in more than 20 States.

I understand there are many private conversations going on between Members of this body and the administration concerning this topic. But I think it is important to reflect back upon what then-Senator Obama, then-candidate Obama said about space exploration and compare it to what his administration has proposed in his budget.

In August of 2008, Senator Obama was campaigning in Florida, in Titusville, FL, on our space coast. He said this:

One of the areas where we are in danger of losing our competitive edge is our space program. When I was growing up, NASA inspired the world with achievements we are still proud of. Today, we have an administration—

He is referring to the Bush administration—

that has set ambitious goals for NASA without giving NASA the support it needs to reach them. As a result, they've had to cut back on research, and trim their programs, which means that after the Space Shuttle shuts down in 2010, we're going to have to rely on Russian spacecraft to keep us in orbit.

He goes on to say:

More broadly, we need a real vision for space exploration. To help formulate this vision, I'll reestablish the National Aeronautics and Space Council so that we can develop a plan to explore the solar system—a plan that involves both human and robotic missions, and enlists both international partners and the private sector. And as America leads the world to long-term exploration of the moon, Mars, and beyond . . . .

And he goes on to say a few more things.

So we know the Congress passed a law that was reaffirmed in 2008, on October 15, that said we were going to go into low-Earth orbit with the Constellation Program. We know the President of the United States, when